United Nations S/2010/349

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 30 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my earlier letter to you dated 4 June 2010 (S/2010/281), in which my Government brought to the attention of the Security Council the armed attack on 26 March 2010 by North Korea against the Republic of Korea Navy ship *Cheonan*, and also respond to the letter from the Permanent Representative of North Korea to you dated 29 June 2010 (S/2010/343).

As clearly stated and presented by the Republic of Korea in my previous letter and during the informal interactive dialogue of the Security Council held on 14 June 2010, the findings of the Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group concluded that an underwater explosion caused by a torpedo fired by a North Korean submarine had sunk the *Cheonan*, resulting in the loss of 46 lives. This conclusion was based on material evidence obtained through the scientific and objective investigation, carried out by experts from Australia, Canada, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Republic of Korea.

The armed attack by North Korea against the Republic of Korea Navy ship constitutes a threat to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and beyond. It is also a clear violation of, among other things, the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement. The Republic of Korea brought this hostile attack to the attention of the Security Council, and we urge the Council to meet its responsibility to address this issue in an expeditious and credible manner.

Regarding North Korea's proposal for so-called high-level military talks, as set out in the above-mentioned letter from North Korea, it should be noted that there already exists an established mechanism for the discussion of such cases of violations of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

Under the terms of the Armistice Agreement, it is the mission of the Military Armistice Commission to deal with violations of the Agreement. The United Nations Command (UNC)-(North) Korean People's Army (KPA) General Officer-level talks have been the designated forum for all Armistice-related issues following agreement between UNC and KPA in 1998. Since then, the UNC-KPA General Officer-level talks have dealt with other cases of violations of the Armistice Agreement by North Korea, including its submarine infiltration in June 1998, as well as naval hostilities in June 1999 and July 2002.

10-43191 (E) 010710

Please recycle

In this context, the UNC Military Armistice Commission has twice — on 26 and 27 June 2010 — proposed to North Korea that UNC-KPA General Officer-level talks be held to discuss the armed attack against the Republic of Korea Navy ship *Cheonan*. The KPA, however, has thus far declined to attend these talks. If North Korea has a genuine intention to discuss this matter in military channels, it should respond positively to this proposal.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Park** In-kook
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations